



# Duals Digest



A Newsletter About Arizonans with Medicare and Medicaid

June 2012

Issue 1.1

## A Message from the Director



Welcome to the first edition of ***Duals Digest***! I am the Director of AHCCCS, Arizona's Medicaid program that oversees the delivery of health care to over 1.3 million Arizonans. ***Duals Digest*** is here to provide you with updates that impact Dual eligible members. "Duals" are people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

AHCCCS currently has 120,000 Duals. Finding your way through these two massive systems is confusing, and that confusion can impact the quality of the health care you receive. We want to simplify this by offering you the choice of managing all your health care through one health plan.

We want your help! Keep reading to learn more about the proposal and how you can get involved.

We want to hear from you and invite you to be part of designing an improved system that works for you. ***Duals Digest*** will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.

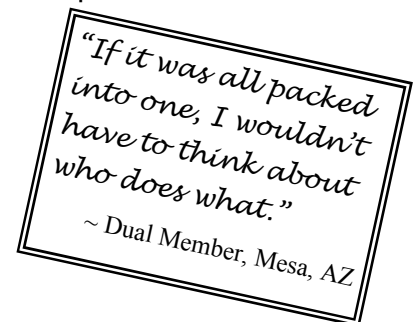
Best Regards,

Thomas J. Betlach  
Director  
AHCCCS

## Overview

Currently, Duals must manage their health care through both Medicare and Medicaid, two different and challenging systems. This fragmentation often results in poor communication between everyone involved. AHCCCS proposes to improve this so that Duals can receive all of their health care, including the payment for prescriptions and benefits, from one of the available health plans of their choice. This should:

- Result in improved health outcomes;
- Increase satisfaction for duals and their health care providers;
- Provide a coordinated benefit package;
- Improve the exchange of health information;
- Clarify who pays for what services between Medicare and Medicaid;
- Avoid duplication of services.



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## Outreach and Important Dates

Your ideas about ways to improve how Duals receive their health care are important. Input was provided from Duals across the state, as well as providers, health plans, advocacy groups and community based organizations. AHCCCS considered all feedback in developing the draft and final proposals. In fact, ***Dual's Digest*** is just one example of that feedback!

April 17, 2012:	AHCCCS issues draft proposal for public comment
May 17, 2012:	Public comments on the draft proposal due to AHCCCS
May 31, 2012:	AHCCCS submits final proposal to CMS *
June 8, 2012:	Public Meeting on final proposal
July 1, 2012:	Public comments on final proposal due to CMS **
Fall 2013:	Information will be sent to duals
January 1, 2014:	Proposed implementation; enrollment for duals expected to begin

\* CMS is the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency that partners with Arizona to oversee and pay for Medicare and Medicaid Services

\*\* E-mail comments on the final proposal to CMS at [AZ-MedicareMedicaidCoordination@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:AZ-MedicareMedicaidCoordination@cms.hhs.gov)



### Public Meeting

On June 8, 2012, AHCCCS conducted a Public Meeting to provide an overview of the comments received and details of the final proposal. More information and a summary of the meeting can be found on the Duals Website, at:

[www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/legislation/integration/Duals.aspx](http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/legislation/integration/Duals.aspx)

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## Contact Information

The Duals website has more information about these efforts, such as the number of Duals in Arizona, national spending, a draft of the proposal, federal guidance, member feedback, presentations and fact sheets. Free internet is available at most public libraries.

Website: [www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/legislation/integration/Duals.aspx](http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/legislation/integration/Duals.aspx)

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